

NAVAL MESSAGE

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NAVY DEPARTMENT

PRIORITY

P 140901Z MAY 72  
FM CINCPACFLT

15 MAY 1972

5872

TO AIG TWO EIGHT SIX

INFO USS BLUE RIDGE  
DIRNSACOMOPTEVFOR  
ISLAND COMMANDER DIEGO GARCIA~~SECRET~~ NOFORN DISSEM//N03840//

PACFLT INTSUM 102-72 (U)

1. MILITARY SITUATION IN SVN

2. MILITARY AND POLITICAL SITUATION IN CAMBODIA

3. MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA AGREE TO DIVIDE MALACCA STRAITS

1. (S/NFD) SVN: ON 12 MAY, VIETNAMESE MARINE UNITS LAUNCHED A SPOILING OPERATION INTO QUANG TRI PROVINCE, WHILE NVA FORCES RESUMED THEIR HEAVY SHELLING AND GROUND ATTACKS AGAINST AN LOC.

IN QUANG TRI PROVINCE, TWO SVN MARINE BATTALIONS WERE HELI-LIFTED, ON 12 MAY, INTO LANDING ZONES WEST OF FIRE SUPPORT BASE (FSB) NANCY (16-37N/107-20E). THESE UNITS WILL PROBABLY CONDUCT SPOILING OPS FOR NEXT SEVERAL DAYS AND WITHDRAW TO SOUTHEAST. INITIAL RE-PAGE 2 RUHHBRA 5578 ~~SECRET~~ NOFORN DISSEM

PORTING FROM THIS OPERATION INDICATES THAT 87 OF THE ENEMY HAVE BEEN KILLED AND THREE PT-76 TANKS DESTROYED. IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS, AERIAL RECON CONTINUES TO DETECT ENEMY LOGISTICS ACTY. ON 12 MAY, AERIAL OBSERVERS OPERATING FOUR KM SOUTHEAST OF FSB PEDRO (16-43N/107-07E) REPORTED APPROX 200 POL BARRELS FLOATING DOWN THACH NAN RIVER. ADDITIONALLY, BOATS, SUPPLY CACHES, PONTOON BRIDGE SECTIONS, AND ENEMY TROOPS WERE NOTED. AREA WAS STRUCK BY TACTICAL AIR RESULTING IN ONE SECONDARY EXPLOSION AND ONE AA POSITION DESTROYED.

IN THUA THIEN PROVINCE, SITUATION AROUND HUE IS UNCHANGED. ELEMENTS OF TWO NVA REGIMENTS CONTINUE TO CONDUCT RECONNAISSANCE AND LIMITED ATTACKS AROUND FSB'S KING (16-23N/107-28E) AND BIRMINGHAM (16-21N/107-32E). ARVN TROOPS IN AREA KILLED 65 ENEMY ON 12 MAY.

IN MILITARY REGION (MR) 2, COMMUNIST-INITIATED ACTY, ON 12 MAY,

942(5) ...CDG

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WAS LIMITED TO LIGHT ATTACKS BY FIRE. KUNTUM AIR BASE RECEIVED THREE SHELLING ATTACKS CONSISTING OF LESS THAN TEN 122-MM ROCKETS. RUNWAY WAS LIGHTLY DAMAGED, BUT WAS REPAIRED IN LESS THAN AN HOUR. IN COASTAL REGION, COMMUNIST FORCES INITIATED FIRST SIGNIFICANT ACTY IN NORTHERN BINH DINH PROVINCE SINCE FALL OF LANDING ZONE ENGLISH (14-32N/109-02E) ON 2 MAY. SVN REGIONAL FORCE ELEMENTS PAGE 3 RUHHBRA 5578 S E C R E T NOFORN DISSEM

LOCATED SOUTHEAST OF PHU MY RECEIVED AN ATTACK BY FIRE CONSISTING OF 20 MORTAR ROUNDS. CASUALTIES WERE, HOWEVER, REPORTED AS LIGHT.

IN MR-3, NVN RESUMED THEIR GROUND ATTACKS AGAINST AN LOC DURING EVENING OF 12 MAY; AND WERE ABLE TO PENETRATE WESTERN AND SOUTHERN PERIMETERS SEVERAL TIMES. BY NIGHTFALL, ARVN HAD REPULSED ENEMY ATTACKS AND WERE CONTAINING AN ESTIMATED TWO NVA COMPANIES AND FOUR TANKS ON WESTERN PERIMETER. ARVN CASUALTIES ON 12 MAY WERE REPORTED AS 25 PERSONNEL KILLED AND 76 WOUNDED. NVA LOST 43 KILLED. AS OF EARLY ON 13 MAY, CITY WAS STILL UNDER ARVN CONTROL AND WAS RECEIVING HEAVY MORTAR, ROCKET AND ARTILLERY FIRE. TO SOUTH, ELEMENTS OF ARVN 21ST DIVISION CONDUCTING SEARCH OPS SIX MILES NORTH OF CHON THANH DISCOVERED AN ENEMY GRAVE SITE CONTAINING 100 ENEMY BODIES. LATER IN DAY, OTHER ELEMENTS ON SEPARATE OPS MADE CONTACT WITH AN UNKNOWN SIZE ENEMY FORCE, RESULTING IN 40 ARVN PERSONNEL WOUNDED AND 36 ENEMY KILLED.

THE MAIN BODY OF 21ST DIVISION REMAINS STALLED JUST TO NORTH.

IN MR-4, ON 12 MAY, COMBAT ACTY WAS LIGHT AND WIDELY SCATTERED. THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT ENEMY-INITIATED ACTIONS REPORTED. (VARIOUS/CINCPACFLT ANALYSIS/BRIEFED)

2. (S/NF) CAMBODIA: ENEMY FORCES CONTINUE TO INTERDICT FRIENDLY PAGE 4 RUHHBRA 5578 S E C R E T NOFORN DISSEM  
LINES OF COMMUNICATION.

COMMUNISTS HAVE AGAIN CLOSED ROUTE 5 FROM PHNOM PENH TO NORTHWEST. ITS CLOSURE IS MOST LIKELY RELATED TO THEIR INFILTRATION AND LOGISTICS ACTY; ENEMY FORCES AND SUPPLIES ARE MOVED SOUTHWESTWARD THROUGH THIS AREA. INTERDICTION PUTS ADDITIONAL PRESSURE ON PHNOM PENH SINCE EXTENDED CLOSURE OF ROUTE 5 WILL DENY FRIENDLY ACCESS TO RICE STORES IN NORTHWEST. CAMBODIAN GENERAL STAFF HAS ORDERED FIVE BATTALIONS OF GENERAL RESERVE TO ASSIST IN A NEW ROAD-CLEARING OPERATION.

HIGHWAYS CONTINUE TO BE MAJOR ENEMY TARGETS, AND MOST ROADS OUT OF PHNOM PENH ARE CLOSED. ALTHOUGH SUCH INTERDICTIONS ARE TEMPORARY, COMMUNISTS HAVE NOW SUCCEEDED IN CUTTING ROUTES 1, 2, 3, AND 5. RECENT CAMBODIAN ESTIMATES ALSO SHOW THAT SEVERAL ENEMY INFILTRATION AND LOGISTIC CORRIDORS THAT CROSS MAJOR ROUTES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED. A HIGH PRIORITY HAS PROBABLY BEEN PLACED ON KEEPING THESE CORRIDORS OPEN TO SUPPORT VC-NVA FORCES OPERATING IN SVN.

IN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS, PREPARATIONS FOR FIRST PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION ON 4 JUN CONTINUE. GOVT PROMULGATED A LAW ON 12 MAY REQUIRING CANDIDATES TO HELP DEFRAY ELECTION COSTS AND STIPULATING THAT WINNER MUST RECEIVE A MAJORITY OF BALLOTS CAST. OTHERWISE, PAGE 5 RUHHBRA 5578 S E C R E T NOFORN DISSEM

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A RUN-OFF ELECTION WILL BE HELD ON 11 JUN BTWN TWO WHO RECEIVE MOST VOTES. PRIMIN LON NOL HAS NOT YET FORMALLY ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTIONS BUT HAS SUCCEEDED IN GETTING GOVT LEADERS TO ASK HIM TO RUN; A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT IS EXPECTED SOON. AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN HAS PUT IN HIS BID FOR PRESIDENCY, AND FORMER ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT IN TAM MAY ENTER RACE. LON NOL IS EXPECTED TO WIN FIRST BALLOT WITH MILITARY SUPPORT. STRONG OPPOSITION IS NOT LIKELY TO DEVELOP IN SHORT TIME REMAINING. (DIA)

3. (U/FOUO). MALAYSIA/INDONESIA : MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA ARE HOLDING CONSULTATIONS ON QUESTION OF PROTECTING THEIR RIGHTS IN STRAITS OF MALACCA. ACCORDING TO A KUALA LUMPUR RADIO BROADCAST, PRIMIN TUN ABDUL RAZAK RECENTLY STATED THAT TWO COUNTRIES HAD REACHED AGREEMENT TO DIVIDE STRAITS EQUALLY. TUN RAZAK REPORTEDLY POINTED OUT THAT PART OF STRAITS FALLS WITHIN TERRITORIAL WATERS OF MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA. IT WAS THEREFORE RESPONSIBILITY OF FOREIGN WARSHIPS TO GIVE THEIR ASSURANCE THAT USE OF STRAITS WAS FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES ONLY. PRIOR NOTICE HAD TO BE GIVEN.

PRIMIN REITERATED THAT INNOCENT PASSAGE WOULD BE ALLOWED. HE SAID IT WAS WITHIN MALAYSIA'S RIGHTS TO PROTECT HER INTERESTS. MALAYSIA, WHICH IN PAST CLAIMED THREE MILES AS HER TERRITORIAL WATERS WAS NOW CLAIMING TWELVE MILES. PART OF STRAITS HAD THEREFORE COME WITHIN HER TERRITORIAL WATERS. PRIMIN STRESSED THAT MANY COUNTRIES HAD ALSO CLAIMED TWELVE MILES AS THEIR TERRITORIAL WATERS. (FRIS BANGKOK)

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